

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An operator for a rotatable spindle, comprising:
 - a hub, the hub having a receiver and an arm extending from the receiver, the receiver adapted to connect to the spindle; and
 - a handle having ~~a cavity~~ a base and a pair of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein the base and sidewalls define a cavity, the base having a top surface and a generally opposed bottom surface;
 - a leaf spring connected to the handle, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls and having a surface generally confronting the bottom surface of the base and an opposite surface generally confronting the arm;
 - wherein the handle is pivotally connected to the arm, the handle pivotable between a closed position wherein a portion of the receiver is positioned within the cavity, and an open position, wherein the receiver is substantially outboard of the cavity.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the handle further comprises a knob rotatably connected to the base.
4. (Original) The operator of claim 1 wherein the receiver has a bore adapted to receive a portion of the spindle.
5. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 1 wherein the ~~handle further comprises means for retaining~~ leaf spring retains the handle in the open position.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the leaf spring is ~~a leaf spring~~ positioned in spaced relationship from an engagement surface of a nose.
8. (Original) The operator of claim 1 further comprising a pin, wherein the pin pivotally connects the handle to the arm.

9. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 1 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the leaf spring is in spaced relationship from a mating surface of the arm and wherein the handle is ~~moveable~~ movable to a deployed position such that the leaf spring is brought into engagement with the mating surface.

10. (Original) The operator of claim 9 wherein an intermediate position is defined between the closed position and the open position, wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring when the handle is in the intermediate position.

11. (Original) The operator of claim 10 wherein the flexing of the leaf spring provides tension that supports the weight of the handle.

12. (Original) The operator of claim 10 wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring as the handle moves towards the open position to thereby provide a force of frictional engagement between the spring and the mating surface.

13. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 9 wherein the handle drops back to the closed position when the handle moves from the intermediate position to the closed position and the leaf spring is no longer engaged with the mating surface.

14. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 1 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the closed position.

15. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 1 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the open position.

16. (Currently Amended) A fold down operator for a rotatable spindle of a casement window assembly, the operator comprising:

a hub, the hub having a receiver and an arm extending from the receiver, the receiver adapted to connect to the spindle; ~~and~~

a handle having ~~a cavity~~ a base and a pair of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein the base and sidewalls define a cavity, the base having a top surface and a generally opposed bottom surface;

a leaf spring connected to the handle, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls and having a surface generally confronting the bottom surface of the base and an opposite surface generally confronting the arm;

wherein the handle is pivotally connected to the arm, the handle pivotable between a closed position wherein a portion of the receiver is positioned within the cavity, and an open position, wherein the receiver is outboard of the cavity.

17. (Original) The operator of claim 16 further comprising a pin, wherein the pin pivotally connects the handle to the arm.
18. (Original) The operator of claim 16 wherein the arm is positioned within the cavity when the handle is in the closed position.
19. (Original) The operator of claim 16 wherein the entire receiver is positioned within the cavity when the handle is in the closed position.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 16 wherein the leaf spring confronts the arm as the handle is pivoted from the closed position to the open position, to maintain the handle in the open position.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 16 wherein an intermediate position is defined between the closed position and the open position, wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring when the handle is in the intermediate position.
26. (Original) The operator of claim 25 wherein the flexing of the leaf spring provides tension that supports the weight of the handle.
27. (Original) The operator of claim 25 wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring in a second portion of the intermediate position as the handle moves towards the closed position providing tension that supports the weight of the handle.
28. (Original) The operator of claim 25 wherein the handle snaps into the open position when the handle moves from the intermediate position to the open position.
29. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 16 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the closed position.

30. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[24]] 16 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the open position.

31. (Currently Amended) A fold down operator for a rotatable spindle of a rotary device for a casement window assembly, the operator comprising:

a hub, the hub having a receiver and an arm extending from the receiver, the receiver adapted to connect to the spindle, the arm having an opening;

a handle having a base and a pair of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein the base and sidewalls define a cavity, the base having a top surface and a generally opposed bottom surface;

a leaf spring connected to the handle and confronting the arm, the leaf spring positioned between the sidewalls, the leaf spring having a surface generally confronting the bottom surface of the base and an opposite surface generally confronting the arm;

a pin pivotally connecting the handle to the arm, wherein the handle is pivotable between a closed position wherein a portion of the receiver is positioned within the cavity, and an open position, wherein the receiver is outboard of the cavity.

32. (Original) The operator of claim 31 further comprising a cover adapted to cover the rotary device.

33. (Original) The operator of claim 32 wherein the handle is positioned substantially flush with the cover when the handle is in the closed position.

34. (Original) The operator of claim 32 wherein the cover has an opening positioned around the rotatable spindle.

35. (Original) The operator of claim 32 wherein the cover has a recess, wherein the handle has a knob, wherein the recess receives the knob when the handle is in the closed position.

36. (Original) The operator of claim 31 wherein the handle has a first end and a second end, wherein the handle has a knob rotatably connected to the second end.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[37]] 31 wherein the handle further has an intermediate position between the open position and closed position.

39. (Original) The operator of claim 38 wherein the arm confronts and flexes the leaf spring when the handle is in the intermediate position.

40. (Original) The operator of claim 39 wherein the leaf spring is unflexed when the handle is in an approximate second half of the intermediate position towards the closed position.

41. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[37]] 31 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the open position.

42. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[37]] 31 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the closed position.

43. (Currently Amended) A fold down operator for a rotatable spindle of a window assembly, the operator comprising:

a hub having a receiver adapted to connect to the spindle, the hub further having an arm;

a handle pivotally connected to the arm, the handle having a base and a pair of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein the base and sidewalls define a cavity, the base having a top surface and a generally opposed bottom surface, the base having a peg extending into the cavity, each sidewall having a slot;

a leaf spring connected to the handle and confronting the arm, the leaf spring having a hole, the leaf spring received by the slots and the hole receiving the peg, the leaf spring having a surface generally confronting the bottom surface of the base and an opposite surface generally confronting the arm;

wherein the handle is movable between a closed position and an open position, an intermediate position defined between the closed position and the open position, wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring when the handle is in the intermediate position.

44. (Original) The operator of claim 43 wherein the flexing of the leaf spring provides tension that supports the weight of the handle.

45. (Original) The operator of claim 43 wherein the handle snaps into the open position when the handle moves from the intermediate position to the open position.

46. (Original) The operator of claim 43 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the closed position.

47. (Original) The operator of claim 43 wherein the leaf spring is un-flexed when the handle is in the open position.

48. (Original) An operator for a rotatable spindle for a casement window, comprising:

a cover having a cover body with an opening configured for passage of a window spindle, and having an outer recess formed of generally opposed sidewalls with an open terminal end of the recess;

a hub having a receiver configured for connection to a window spindle and having an arm extending radially outward of the receiver; and

a handle pivotally connected to the hub at a hinge axis and having a knob positioned on the handle opposite the hub connection, the handle being movable relative said cover between a use configuration extending away from the cover, to a storage configuration wherein an extent of the knob is positioned within the recess and a gripping portion of the knob is exposed within the recess at the recess open end.

49. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 48, wherein[[:]] the knob has a terminal end surface that is exposed at the open terminal end of the cover recess.

50. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 48, wherein[[:]] at least a portion of the knob extends outward of the cover recess when the handle is in the storage configuration.

51. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 48, [[further comprising:]] wherein the handle has a cavity positioned adjacent said connection to the arm, a spring member is positioned within the cavity and positioned to engage a surface of the arm when the handle is moved between use and storage configurations.

52. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 51, wherein[[:]] the spring member is a leaf spring positioned relative the arm to engage a protruding terminal end of the arm.

53. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 52, wherein[[:]] the protruding end of the arm comprises a body portion having a terminal end surface, and a thickness between the terminal end surface and the hinge axis being greater than a thickness between an adjacent surface and the hinge axis.

54. (New) A fold down operator for a rotatable spindle of a window assembly, the operator comprising:

a hub having a receiver adapted to connect to the spindle, the hub further having an arm;
a handle pivotally connected to the arm, the handle having a first end and a second end, the first end located proximate the hub, the handle further having a base and a pair of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein the base and the sidewalls define a cavity, the base having a top surface and a generally opposed bottom surface, and the sidewalls having a pair of slots;
a pin pivotally connecting the handle to the arm;
a leaf spring, wherein the leaf spring is positioned between the pair of sidewalls and received by the pair of slots, the leaf spring generally confronting the bottom surface of the base of the handle proximate the first end of the handle;
wherein the handle is movable between a closed position, an open position, and an intermediate position defined between the closed position and the open position, wherein the arm flexes the leaf spring when the handle is in the intermediate position.